

Department of Finance

News Release

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Scholarships Renamed in Honour of Canada's Best and Brightest

The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, today announced the official renaming of the Canada Graduate Scholarships to honour Canadian innovators and researchers who changed the course of history.

The master's and doctoral scholarships will be named after renowned pioneers of Canadian technology, medicine and entrepreneurship:

- students in the natural sciences and engineering will now receive the Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships;
- students in the health sciences will now receive the Sir Frederick Banting and Dr. Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships; and
- award winners in the social sciences and humanities will now receive the J. Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships.

Budget 2007 delivered \$62 million in new funding over three years for graduate students. As a result, the three federal granting agencies—the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)—were able to name more than 600 additional award winners in 2007. The total number of scholarships awarded will stand at 5,000 by 2009.

"Canada has established a reputation for research excellence in many areas, and as laid out in our Science and Technology Strategy, the Government is committed to strengthening this country's knowledge advantage," said Minister Flaherty. "Through the Government's extra investment in the Canada Graduate Scholarships Program, Budget 2007 is helping Canada sustain and expand research training in our universities and keep our brightest researchers at home."

"Bell, Bombardier, Banting and Best are names that are associated with excellence," the Minister continued. "I am certain Canadians today will do them proud as they pursue their studies, build their careers and contribute to Canada's future prosperity."



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Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

NSERC is a federal agency whose role is to make investments in people, discovery and innovation for the benefit of all Canadians. The agency invests in people by supporting some 23,000 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies. NSERC promotes discovery by funding more than 11,000 university professors every year and helps make innovation happen by encouraging about 1,300 Canadian companies to invest in university research and training. Over the past 10 years, NSERC has invested \$6 billion in basic research, university-industry projects and the training of Canada's next generation of scientists and engineers.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

CIHR is the Government of Canada's agency for health research. CIHR's mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to catalyze its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health care system. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to over 11,000 health researchers and trainees across Canada.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

SSHRC is an independent federal government agency that funds university-based research and graduate training through national peer-review competitions. SSHRC also partners with public and private sector organizations to focus research and aid the development of better policies and practices in key areas of Canada's social, cultural and economic life.

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